

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7164

S E C R E T CAIRO 10238

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH THE CANAL

1. WHEN I SAW FAHMY TODAY, HE WAS FURIOUS BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS HAD LEAKED THE NEWS THAT THE FIRST ISRAELI CARGO WILL TRANSIT THE CANAL ON OCTOBER 22. HE HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT THIS INFORMATION NOT BE LEAKED. NOW THE "BASTARDS" HAD DONE SO AND ALREADY PALESTINIANS AND SYRIANS ARE USING IT TO ATTACK EGYPT. HE WOULD NOW PROBABLY HAVE TO CANCEL THE TRANSIT.

2. I SAID I HAD SEEN THE ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT. I REGRETTED IT, BUT I THOUGHT WE ALL HAD TO RECOGNIZE THAT LEAKAGE WAS INEVITABLE. I STRONGLY URGED THAT HE NOT DO ANYTHING TO CHANGE THE OCTOBER 22 DATE TO WHICH SADAT AND HE HAD EARLIER AGREED. I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE THAT EGYPT WOULD GAIN ANY KUDOS FROM ITS ARAB CRITICS BY DOING SO, BUT I WAS SURE THAT IT WOULD LOSE A GREAT DEAL OF PRESTIGE IN THE US AND WESTERN WORLD IF IT NOW RENEGES ON THIS COMMITMENT. THE SOONER SUCH A CARGO IS PERMITTED TO TRANSIT, THE BETTER FOR ALL CONCERNED.

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3. FAHMY WAS NON-COMMITTAL. HIS ONLY COMMENT

WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO DECIDE.

4. I SHALL FOLLOW UP WITH FAHMY AND THE PRESIDENT
AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE.

5. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE ISRAELIS COULD
AGAIN BE ADVISED TO DROP THEIR PUBLICITY ON THIS
ISSUE. IT MAY BE FUTILE TO ASK THEM TO DO SO, BUT
IT IS WORTH ANOTHER TRY. THE ISRAELIS OUGHT TO REALIZE
THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN AND MUCH TO LOSE
BY THUS WEAKENING SADAT'S POSITION IN THE ARAB WORLD.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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